Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

Please cancel claim 17; amend claims 1-11, 14, 18-23, 25, 28, 30, 31, 34, 37, 39-42, and 47-49; and add new claims 80-87, as set out in the following listing of the claims of the application. Claims 50-79 have previously been withdrawn from consideration, with withdrawn claims 50, 55, 57, 60, 62, 63, 66, 74, 77, and 79 also being amended herewith. Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 32, 33, 35 and 36 were canceled previously.

1. **(Currently amended)** A packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article, comprising:

a base member;

a first sheet ~~layer~~ of a porous material joined along at least a first edge portion thereof to the base member to define an enclosed interior volume; [[and]]

a second sheet ~~layer consisting essentially of polyethylene~~ overlying~~, in contact with~~ and sealed to the first sheet ~~layer over its entire contacting surface~~, said second sheet ~~layer~~ (i) being non-porous to passage of gas therethrough and (ii) comprising a peelable film ~~consisting essentially of polyethylene~~ in ~~direct~~ facial contact with the first sheet ~~layer of porous material~~, said peelable film permitting peeling removal of the second sheet ~~layer~~ from the first sheet ~~layer~~ to expose the first sheet ~~layer of porous material~~ for passage of gas therethrough; and

a pressurization gas inlet adapted to permit the ingress of pressurization gas to the enclosed interior volume.

2. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 1, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a material selected from the group consisting of cellulosic and synthetic polymeric materials.

3. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 2, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a cellulosic material.

4. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 3, wherein said cellulosic material comprises paper.

5. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 2, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a synthetic polymeric material.

6. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 5, wherein said synthetic polymeric material comprises polyethylene.

7. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 6, wherein the polyethylene comprises high-density polyethylene.

8. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 1, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a flash-spun and bonded polymeric fibrous web.

9. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 8, wherein said web comprises high density polyethylene fiber.

10. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 1, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a porous web of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polysulfone, polyimide, polypropylene, polybutylene, polyvinylchloride, polyurethane, and polystyrene.

11. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 1, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density polyethylene fibers.

12. **(Canceled).**

13. **(Canceled).**

14. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 1, wherein the second sheet ~~layer~~ further comprises a backing layer ~~consisting essentially of polyethylene~~ secured to the peelable film.

15. **(Canceled).**

16. **(Canceled).**

17. **(Canceled).**

18. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 17, in the form of ~~wherein the packaging comprises~~ a bag adapted to hold a product article therein.

19. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 17, wherein the packaging article comprises a containment structure for a product article that must be sterile in end usage thereof.

20. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 19, wherein the product article comprises a medical device.

21. **(Currently amended)** The packaging ~~multilayer web~~ article of claim 19, wherein the product article comprises a pharmaceutical agent.

22. **(Currently amended)** A packaging article useful for pressurization integrity testing and after pressurization integrity testing being permeable to sterilant gas for sterile packaging of a product article disposable therein, said packaging article comprising:

a base member;

~~a sheet form structural component including:~~ a first sheet ~~layer~~ of a porous material joined along at least a first edge portion thereof to the base member to define an enclosed interior volume, the

first sheet being ~~that is~~ permeable to passage of sterilant gas therethrough in exposure to a sterilant gas environment; ~~and~~

a second sheet ~~layer consisting essentially of polyethylene~~ overlying~~, in contact with~~ and sealed to the first sheet ~~layer over its entire contacting surface~~, said second sheet ~~layer~~ (i) being non-porous to passage of said sterilant gas therethrough and (ii) comprising a peelable film ~~consisting essentially of polyethylene~~ in ~~direct~~ facial contact with the first sheet ~~layer~~ of porous material, said peelable film permitting peeling removal of the second sheet ~~layer~~ from the first sheet ~~layer~~ to expose the first sheet ~~layer of porous material~~ for passage of said sterilant gas therethrough; and

a pressurization gas inlet adapted to permit the ingress of pressurization gas to the enclosed interior volume for pressurization integrity testing.

23. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a cellulosic material.

24. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 23, wherein said cellulosic material comprises paper.

25. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a synthetic polymeric material.

26. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 25, wherein said synthetic polymeric material comprises polyethylene.

27. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 26, wherein the polyethylene comprises high-density polyethylene.

28. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a flash-spun and bonded polymeric fibrous web.

29. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 28, wherein said web comprises high-density polyethylene fiber.

30. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a porous web of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polysulfone, polyimide, polypropylene, polybutylene, polyvinylchloride, polyurethane, and polystyrene.

31. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density polyethylene fibers.

32. **(Canceled)**.

33. **(Canceled)**.

34. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein the second sheet ~~layer~~ further comprises a backing layer ~~consisting essentially of polyethylene~~ secured to the peelable film.

35. **(Canceled)**.

36. **(Canceled)**.

37. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, wherein the base member comprises ~~further comprising~~ a non-porous structural component~~, joined to said sheet form structural component to form therewith an enclosure for containment of said product article~~.

38. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 37, wherein said non-porous structural component is of sheet form.

39. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 37, wherein said non-porous structural component comprises a shaped member adapted to secure at least a portion ~~bonded to said sheet form structural component and forming therewith an enclosed interior volume for containment~~ of said product article therein.

40. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, in the form of ~~comprising~~ a bag adapted to hold said product article therein.

41. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 40, wherein said first sheet ~~bag~~ comprises a non-porous polyethylene sheet ~~bonded along an edge region thereof to said sheet form structural component~~.

42. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 41, wherein said first sheet ~~form structural component~~ comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density ~~polyethylene~~ fibers ~~as said first layer~~.

43. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 22, having a product article packaged therein.

44. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 43, wherein said product article must be sterile in end usage thereof.

45. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 44, wherein said product article comprises a medical device.

46. **(Original)** The packaging article of claim 44, wherein the product article comprises a pharmaceutical agent.

47. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 22, in the form of ~~comprising~~ a bag ~~including said sheet form structural component as a panel of the bag~~, wherein the base member comprises ~~sheet~~

~~form structural component is bonded at an edge region of said first layer to~~ a non-porous panel ~~to form therewith an enclosed interior volume for holding said product article~~, and wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density polyethylene fibers, and said non-porous panel is formed of polyethylene film.

48. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 47, wherein the first sheet is joined to the base member at a bonded edge region having [[has]] a bond strength greater than about 20 Newtons per 15 millimeter bonded edge region width.

49. **(Currently amended)** The packaging article of claim 48, wherein the second sheet ~~layer~~ is sealed to the first sheet ~~layer~~ with a seal strength in a range of from about 1 to about 8 Newtons per 15 millimeters seal width.

50. **(Withdrawn)** A method of integrity testing a packaging article by pressure retention testing and rendering said packaging article permeable to sterilant gas for sterile packaging of a product article therein after said pressure retention testing, and sterilizing the packaging, said method comprising:

(a) fabricating said packaging article with a sheet form structural component including: a first sheet ~~layer~~ of a porous material that is permeable to passage of sterilant gas therethrough in exposure to a sterilant gas environment; and a second sheet ~~layer~~ overlying and sealed to the first sheet ~~layer~~, wherein said second sheet ~~layer~~ (i) is non-porous to passage of said sterilant gas therethrough and (ii) comprises a peelable film in facial contact with the first sheet ~~layer~~ of porous material, said peelable film permitting peeling removal of the second sheet ~~layer~~ from the first sheet ~~layer~~ to expose the first sheet ~~layer of porous material~~ for passage of said sterilant gas therethrough;

(b) pressurizing said packaging article by a compressed gas and monitoring pressure retention by the packaging article to determine its integrity;

(c) after completion of step (b) with a verification of said integrity, peelingly removing the second sheet ~~layer~~ from the first sheet ~~layer~~ to expose the first sheet ~~layer of porous material~~ for passage of said sterilant gas therethrough; and

(d) after step (c), exposing said packaging article to said sterilant gas to sterilize said packaging article.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein step (d) is carried out after packaging of said product article with said packaging article.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said sterilant gas comprises steam and/or ETO.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said sterilant gas comprises steam.

54. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said sterilant gas comprises ETO.

55. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a cellulosic material.

56. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 55, wherein said cellulosic material comprises paper.

57. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a synthetic polymeric material.

58. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 57, wherein said synthetic polymeric material comprises polyethylene.

59. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 58, wherein the polyethylene comprises high-density polyethylene.

60. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a flash-spun and bonded polymeric fibrous web.

61. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 60, wherein said web comprises high-density polyethylene fiber.

62. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a porous web of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polysulfone, polyimide, polypropylene, polybutylene, polyvinylchloride, polyurethane, and polystyrene.

63. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density polyethylene fibers.

64. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein the peelable film comprises a synthetic resin polymeric film.

65. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 64, wherein the synthetic resin polymeric film comprises polyethylene film.

66. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein the second sheet ~~layer~~ further comprises a backing layer secured to the peelable film.

67. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 66, wherein the backing layer comprises a synthetic resin material.

68. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 67, wherein the backing layer synthetic resin material comprises polyethylene.

69. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein the packaging article further comprises a non-porous structural component, joined to said sheet form structural component to form therewith an enclosure for containment of said product article.

70. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 69, wherein said non-porous structural component is of sheet form.

71. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 69, wherein said non-porous structural component comprises a shaped member bonded to said sheet form structural component and forming therewith an enclosed interior volume for containment of said product article therein.

72. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein the packaging article comprises a bag adapted to hold said product article therein.

73. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 72, wherein said bag comprises a non-porous polyethylene sheet bonded along an edge region thereof to said sheet form structural component.

74. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 73, wherein said sheet form structural component comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density polyethylene fibers as said first sheet ~~layer~~, and said peelable film comprises a polyethylene film.

75. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein said product article comprises a medical device.

76. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein the product article comprises a pharmaceutical agent.

77. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein the packaging article comprises a bag including said sheet form structural component as a panel of the bag, wherein the sheet form structural component is bonded at an edge region of said first sheet ~~layer~~ to a non-porous panel to form therewith an enclosed interior volume for holding said product article, wherein said first sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a film of heat- and pressure-consolidated flash-spun high density polyethylene fibers, said second sheet ~~layer~~ comprises a peelable polyethylene film, and said non-porous panel is formed of polyethylene film.

78. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 77, wherein the bonded edge region has a bond strength greater than about 20 Newtons per 15 millimeter bonded edge region width.

79. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 78, wherein the second sheet ~~layer~~ is sealed to the first sheet ~~layer~~ with a seal strength in a range of from about 1 to about 8 Newtons per 15 millimeters seal width.

80. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 1 wherein the pressurization gas inlet comprises a spout.

81. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 1 wherein the pressurization gas inlet comprises a gland.

82. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 1 wherein the pressurization gas inlet comprises an inlet connector element.

83. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 1 wherein the pressurization gas inlet is joined to the base member.

84. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 22 wherein the pressurization gas inlet comprises a spout.

85. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 22 wherein the pressurization gas inlet comprises a gland.

86. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 22 wherein the pressurization gas inlet comprises an inlet connector element.

87. **(New)** The packaging article of claim 22 wherein the pressurization gas inlet is joined to the base member.